

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/996,211

Examiner

Cameron Saadat

Applicant(s)

LAZECKI ET AL

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 6/16/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Faber and Joel Felber on September 15, 2005. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 3: line 7, replace "for being located near the target area and adapted for sensing" with--

located near the target area and which senses --

line 8, replace "indicating" with -- indicates --

line 12, replace "operable to emit an impact signal that" with --, the transmitter emits an impact signal in response to the sensed weapon signal, wherein the impact signal

--

Claim 4: line 2, replace "adapted to sense" with -- senses --

line 4, replace "is operable to emit" with -- emits --

line 5, delete "adapted for being"

Claim 5: line 1, replace "is operable to sense" with -- senses --

Claim 6: line 3, replace "a sensor for being located near the target area and adapted for sensing"

with -- a sensor located near the target area and which senses --

line 9, replace "adapted to sense" with -- senses --

line 10, replace "is operable to emit" with -- emits --

line 11, replace "wherein the transmitter is adapted for being" with -- and wherein the transmitter is --

line 15, replace "is operable to sense" with -- senses --

Art Unit: 3713

line 16, replace "covering" with -- covers --

Claim 7: line 2, replace "being adapted to supply" with -- supplies --

line 4, replace "to adjust" with --adjusts --

Claim 8: lines 1-2, replace "for reflecting" with -- which reflects --

Claim 10: line 2, replace "operable to emit" with --, the weapon emitting --

Claim 14: line 3, delete "for being" and replace "adapted for sensing" with -- which senses --

line 7, delete "which"

line 11, delete "and adapted"

lines 12-13, replace "is operable to emit" with -- emits --

line 14, delete "adapted for being"

lines 21-22, replace "being adapted to supply" --supplying --

Claim 20: line 6, delete "for being" and "and adapted for"

line 7, replace "and indicating the simulated firing of a projectile with an explosive

effect in the target area" with --, wherein the weapon signal defines a first portion
of the impact area less than the entire impact area --

line 11, replace "and operable to emit an impact signal over the impact area" with --

that emits an impact signal over the impact area in response to the sensed weapon
signal, wherein the impact signal covers the first portion of the impact area and a
second portion of the impact area which is at least partially outward of the first
portion --

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- Independent claims 6 and 14 - the combination of elements specifically claimed,
including the features of simulating the effect of exploding projectiles fired by a weapon

toward a target area, comprising a sensor for sensing a weapon signal from a weapon, wherein the sensor is directionally sensitive for sensing the direction from which a weapon signal is received; and wherein the sensor is linked to a transmitter that emits an impact signal over the impact area of the simulated projectile in a directionally variable range; wherein the sensor senses the weapon signal over a total angular range, the sensor further comprising a plurality of sensor elements, each sensor element covering a sector of the total angular range covered by the sensor to determine the angle of incidence of the weapon signal emitted by the weapon. The closest prior art of record, Sampson (US 6,579,097) does not teach or fairly suggest this feature in the combination.

- Patentability additionally seen in, although not limited to independent claims 1, 3, and 20: the combination of elements specifically claimed including the features of emitting a weapon signal from a weapon toward a target area, wherein the weapon signal defines a first portion of a simulated impact area less than the entire simulated impact area; a sensor located near the target area which senses the weapon signal; a transmitter operatively linked to the sensor, wherein the transmitter emits an impact signal in response to the sensed weapon signal, wherein the impact signal covers the first portion of the simulated impact area and a second portion of the simulated impact area which is at least partially outward of the first portion. The closest prior art of record, Sampson (US 6,579,097), does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed features in combination. In Sampson, an activation signal is transmitted to receiver 44 in order to activate area effects weapon simulator 36, which then transmits an impact signal to simulate an explosion. The transmitted activation signal in Sampson does not define a first portion of an impact area as claimed, but instead merely activates weapon simulator 36. In addition, the impact signal transmitted by weapon simulator 36 does not cover the first portion of the

Art Unit: 3713

impact area and a second portion of the impact area which is at least partially outward of the first portion, since no portions of a simulated impact area are taught or suggested by Sampson.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: FitzGerald (USPN 5,382,958) – discloses a simulated battlefield.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cameron Saadat whose telephone number is (571) 272-4443. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cameron Saadat
September 16, 2005



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